

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Region 10

105/937-200
Tongass National Forest,
Thorne Bay R.D.
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Thorne Bay, AK 99919

Reply To: 2630 Fisheries Habitat

Date: April 21, 1986

Subject: Shipley Lake outlet project # 208 (105-43-002) debris removal

To: Richard Uberuaga, Fisheries Enhancement Specialist

On April 15-17, 1986 Richard Uberuaga and Ken Holbrook inspected the proposed non-structural fishpass project at the outlet of Shipley Lake. This trip was to evaluate the barrier to fish passage and make plans for the completion of phase II and III in FY 86.

Inspection of the barrier revealed that the problem could be corrected the next day. On April 16, 1986 the barrier was removed and fish passage is now assured.

The passage barrier consisted of an accumulation of logs, rootwads, and debris at the lakes narrow outlet. This log jam formed a complete passage barrier at low flows and a partial barrier at moderate and high flows.

Fish passage was so restricted that at higher flows, when the fish move upstream, only a few fish could pass the barrier at one time resulting in fish being stranded in the stream as the flow decreased.

Evaluation of the site after the logs and debris were removed revealed that the site would be passable to fish except at very low flows, and as 50% of the stream would also be unpassable at low flows it was decided not to do any instream rock work as the original project was proposed. With the debris barrier removed fish would not be stranded in the stream.

After evaluation of the debris barrier and additional debris barriers in the lake it becomes obvious that debris accumulations at the lake outlet is natural and will occur again.

Recommendations for this project are; • •

Manage Shipley Lake outlet as habitat maintenance rather than habitat enhancement.

Monitor yearly, with corrective measures taken as needed, rather than after the debris dam reduces production in the system. This would be an example of proactive management vs. reactive management.

Yearly maintenance could be done on the yearly cabin maintenance trip and accomplish both jobs for the cost of one.



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